

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A digital document discussion apparatus comprising:
  - a discussion document storage unit which stores a digitized document in a discussion document database;
  - 5 an attribute information storage unit which stores attribute information on a user as an attribute information database;
  - a template providing unit which provides a templates to a discussion requester as the user by a frame with a work process and the attribute information corresponding to the discussion
  - 10 document used as keys;
  - a discussion document creation unit which creates the discussion document based on the template; and
  - a discussion request unit which requests a discussion participant as the user to discuss the discussion document created
  - 15 by the discussion document creation unit.
2. A digital document discussion apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
  - a plurality of the templates are provided to correspond to
  - 20 a plurality of the work processes forming a work flow, respectively.
3. A digital document discussion apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:
  - an information disclosure control unit which controls various
  - 25 items of information, in which a user's situation is inflected,

based on the attribute information on the user for information disclosure to the user.

4. A digital document discussion apparatus according to claim

5 1, wherein

the discussion request unit automatically sets a request receiving party of the discussion document based on the attribute information.

10 5. A digital document discussion apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

a discussion unit which allows the discussion participant to discuss the discussion document requested by the discussion request unit in accordance with the work processes.

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6. A digital document discussion apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

a search unit which searches material information designated by the discussion participant from a plurality of items of material information associated with the discussion document requested by the discussion request unit; and

a material information providing unit which provides the searched material information to the discussion participant when discussing the discussion document.

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7. A digital document discussion apparatus according to claim 6, wherein

the search unit rearranges the plurality of items of material information in an order of frequency of use for each work process forming the work flow, and discloses the rearranged material information to the discussion participant.

8. A digital document discussion apparatus according to claim 7, wherein

the search unit rearranges the work processes forming the work flow in accordance with frequency of use.

9. A digital document discussion apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

a discussion result of the discussion document is reflected in the discussion document as an original, and the discussion document is stored in the database while allocating a tag to each phrase.

10. A digital document discussion method comprising:

a discussion document storage step of storing a digitized discussion document in a discussion document database;

an attribute information storage step of storing attribute information on a user as an attribute information database;

a template providing step of providing a template to a

discussion requester as the user by a frame with a work process and the attribute information corresponding to the discussion document used as keys;

- a discussion document creation step of creating the
- 5 discussion document based on the template;

- a material information accumulation step of accumulating a plurality of items of material information;

- a discussion request step of requesting a discussion participant as the user to discuss the discussion document created
- 10 in the discussion document creation step;

- a search step of searching material information associated with the discussion document requested in the discussion request step from the plurality of items of material information;

- a material information providing step of providing the
- 15 material information searched in the search step to the discussion participant when discussing the discussion document.

11. A digital document discussion method comprising:

- a discussion document storage step of storing a digitized
- 20 discussion document in a discussion document database;

- an attribute information storage step of storing attribute information on a user as an attribute information database;

- a template providing step of providing a template to a discussion requester as the user by a frame with a work process
- 25 and the attribute information corresponding to the discussion

document used as keys;

a discussion document creation step of creating the discussion document based on the template;

a discussion request step of requesting a discussion  
5 participant as the user to discuss the discussion document created  
in the discussion document creation step;

a search step of searching material information designated  
by the discussion participant from a plurality of items of material  
information associated with the discussion document requested in  
10 the discussion request step;

a material information providing step of providing the material information searched in the search step to the discussion participant when discussing the discussion document; and

a discussion step of allowing the discussion participant  
15 to discuss the discussion document requested in the discussion  
request step in accordance with the work process.

12. A digital document discussion program for allowing a computer to function as:

20 a discussion document storage unit which stores a digitized document in a discussion document database;

an attribute information storage unit which stores attribute information on a user as an attribute information database;

a template providing unit which provides a templates to a  
25 discussion requester as the user by a frame with a work process

and the attribute information corresponding to the discussion document used as keys;

a discussion document creation unit which creates the discussion document based on the template; and

5 a discussion request unit which requests a discussion participant as the user to discuss the discussion document created by the discussion document creation unit.

13. Adigital document discussion program for allowing a computer  
10 to function as:

a discussion document storage unit which stores a digitized discussion document in a discussion document database;

an attribute information storage unit which stores attribute information on a user as an attribute information database;

15 a template providing unit which provides a template to a discussion requester as the user by a frame with a work process and the attribute information corresponding to the discussion document used as keys;

a discussion document creation unit which creates the  
20 discussion document based on the template;

a material information accumulation unit which accumulates a plurality of items of material information;

a discussion request unit which requests a discussion participant as the user to discuss the discussion document created  
25 in the discussion document creation step;

a search unit which searches material information associated with the discussion document requested in the discussion request unit from the plurality of items of material information; and

a material information providing unit which provides the  
5 material information searched in the search unit to the discussion participant when discussing the discussion document.

14. A digital document discussion program for allowing a computer to function as:

10 a discussion document storage unit which stores a digitized discussion document in a discussion document database;

an attribute information storage unit which stores attribute information on a user as an attribute information database;

a template providing unit which provides a template to a  
15 discussion requester as the user by a frame with a work process and the attribute information corresponding to the discussion document used as keys;

a discussion document creation unit which creates the discussion document based on the template;

20 a discussion request unit which requests a discussion participant as the user to discuss the discussion document created in the discussion document creation unit;

a search unit which searches material information designated by the discussion participant from a plurality of items of material  
25 information associated with the discussion document requested in

the discussion request step;

a material information providing unit which provides the material information searched in the search step to the discussion participant when discussing the discussion document; and

- 5 a discussion unit which allows the discussion participant to discuss the discussion document requested in the discussion request unit in accordance with the work process.